

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 18-19 have been amended. Claims 20-31 have been added.

I. Discussion of Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and Applicant's Statement of Substance of Interview of May 21, 2009 and May 26, 2009

Applicant thanks Examiner David Welch for his time in conducting the courteous and productive telephonic interviews with Applicant's representative, Logan Brown, on May 21, 2009 and May 26, 2009 regarding the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(Examiner) and §103(a).

To summarize these conversations, Applicant's representative presented Applicant's position that Yoshitani, Hoshuyama, and Elswick fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 1-19. While no agreement was reached as to the current claims, the Examiner indicated that, if the independent claims were amended as shown above, the claims would clearly overcome the rejections. In view of this, the Examiner requested that Applicant file an Amendment amending the claims, which Applicant respectfully submits has been done above, and that upon receipt of this response so amending the claims, the Examiner would withdraw the rejection, perform a new search, and issue a new non-final Office Action if new pertinent art is found or alternatively issue a notice of allowance.

As such, by this Amendment, Applicant has amended the claims as indicated by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner enter this Amendment and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

II. Claim Objections

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 1, 7 and 18-19 in view of the self-explanatory amendments presented above.

III. New Claims

New claims 20-31 have been added. Applicant submits that independent claim 25 and its dependant claims 26-27 are patentable over the cited references for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-24 and 28-31 are patentable over the prior art at least by virtue of their dependence from claims 1, 3, 7, and 18. As such, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner enter and allow these claims.

IV. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning a copy of the SB/08 form submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 21, 2005.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/561,908

Attorney Docket No.: Q91563

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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